

**Summary of Public Hearing Comments Received
Governor's Task Force *KidsFirst*: Quality Counts for Kids Recommendation
October 2004**

168 people attended a public hearing:

54 attended in La Crosse
83 attended in Milwaukee
31 attended in Wausau

111 people provided either oral, written or both oral and written comments:

17 commented in La Crosse
13 commented in Wausau
33 commented in Milwaukee
48 provided written comments directly to the Child Care Section

General Comments on the Quality Rating Scale and Tiered Reimbursement	
54 Individuals (49 %)	Indicate general support for this initiative.
13 Individuals (12 %)	Indicate general opposition to this initiative.

Comments that were identified most often were:

- Why is an unrelated bachelors degree worth more points than an associate degree in early childhood?
- If a program is able to recruit well-educated staff, how will they be supported to retain the staff? Higher educated staff will need to be paid a higher salary.
- Why are experience and longevity not recognized on the Provider Qualifications rating scale?
- Accreditation does not always signify quality. Why are other national accrediting bodies not recognized? Who will pay the high costs associated with the new NAEYC policies?
- The current child care system infrastructure of supports needs to be fully funded. Utilize current supports that have been developed in Wisconsin, including licensing, Child Care Resource and Referral, The Registry, etc.
- Who will complete the evaluations in the child care program?
- Raters will need to be objective, and provide consistent interpretation across the state.
- How often will programs be evaluated?
- What is the complete definition for regulatory compliance?

The following pages identify categories of comments that were indicated through oral and written comment. Note: individuals often provide multiple comments, and in nearly all cases, those that indicated support for the initiative still provided comment on what could be done to improve the Quality Rating Scale and Tiered Reimbursement.

Teacher/Director Qualifications	
14 comments	"Unrelated degrees" need more definition on what is considered related or unrelated when working in a child care program, and why is an unrelated bachelors degree worth more than a two year associate degree?
13 comments	Staff retention issues – increased cost for higher educated staff.
11 comments	Non-credit training and continuing education should be addressed.
10 comments	Experience of staff/provider not addressed.
10 comments	Longevity of providers in a program not addressed.
6 comments	The Child Care Administrators Credential should be worth increased points. Is not the same value on family day care and group center.
5 comments	Qualified staff and provider recruitment issues.
4 comments	Address other means for becoming qualified such as CDA and AA degree, Apprenticeship, Infant/Toddler Credential, School Age credential.
4 comments	The Need for a High School Diploma or its equivalent is a barrier to reach a higher quality rating, particularly for teachers and providers who speak English as a second language.
3 comments	Family child care qualifications are not equivalent to group center qualifications.
1 comment	Ensure access to educational opportunities.
1 comment	Require state qualification exam on basic child development.
Learning Environment and Curriculum	
14 comments	Accreditation comments such as alternate accrediting bodies suggested, problems with current accreditation.
6 comments	Requirements for learning centers-program should determine what the learning centers should look like, what activities should be included, etc. Needs to be more clearly detailed.
4 comments	Play based environment stressed.
3 comments	Early Learning Standards and curriculum alignment.
2 comments	Supporting the use of environmental rating scales. Who will pay for these?
1 comment	What support will there be to provide a higher quality environment?

Professional Practices	
2 comments	Professional practices needs more emphasis, and should be worth more points.
3 comments	How are staff benefits decided for family child care providers, do they have to be the same across the state?
1 comment	How are salary scale benefits decided for family child care providers, do they have to be the same across the state?
1 comment	Include Model Work Standards as a professional practice to earn points.
Tiered Reimbursement	
10 comments	Support the Tiered Reimbursement approach.
7 comments	Co-payments are confusing.
7 comments	The increased subsidy payment will not cover the full cost of increased quality at programs.
7 comments	What will happen in the future if the Wisconsin Shares Subsidy is reduced?
4 comments	How will this work?
4 comments	Change the percentage amounts (comments for both increase and decrease).
2 comments	How will regulatory compliance affect subsidy payments?
1 comment	The local agency administrative funding should not be reduced.
1 comment	How will this apply to School Age Programs?
Support Systems	
17 comments	The current child care system infrastructure needs support to achieve quality.
13 comments	Need funding to support quality.
12 comments	Incentives needed for centers serving primarily private-pay families.
10 comments	Need support to pay increased staff wages based on higher levels of education.
10 comments	Support systems need to be available statewide to programs that want to achieve and sustain quality.
8 comments	Concerns identified regarding the ability of the Registry to document educational levels and timeliness issues.
4 comments	Grants and loans are needed for programs to meet higher quality.
3 comments	Child Care Resource and Referral agencies should be utilized statewide.
1 comment	Lower rated programs need supports to move to higher quality.

Regulatory Compliance	
9 comments	Regulatory compliance needs to be more clearly defined.
3 comments	If a center is not in regulatory compliance, the program should not be allowed to operate.
2 comments	Enforcement action for a single incident (paperwork vs. child safety).
1 comment	Time limits for verifying compliance after a non-compliance identified.
Implementation Concerns	
13 comments	Who will do the evaluations?
13 comments	Raters will need to be objective, and consistent in interpretation across the state.
11 comments	How often with the program evaluations be done?
10 comments	How will implementation be funded?
8 comments	Needs to be sufficient staff to complete evaluations of programs.
7 comments	The implementation timeline may be too aggressive.
7 comments	Will licensing fees increase? Will Registry fees increase?
4 comments	What will the effect be on primarily private-pay programs?
2 comments	What will the appeal process be?
1 comment	How will lab schools be effected?
1 comment	How will programs run by a school board be effected?
1 comment	What standards will be used?
General Comments	
8 comments	Concerned about losing regulated care settings/slots.
7 comments	Need to inform parents about quality care choices.
7 comments	Voluntary or Mandatory.
6 comments	Making ratings available to parents.
6 comments	Certified care is different than licensed care
5 comments	Child Care availability in rural areas and effect on care in rural areas
4 comments	Need to address public and private schools, 4 year-old-kindergarten programs and raising quality.
2 comments	Family child care is different than licensed center child care.
2 comments	Need to identify what "quality" child care is.
2 comments	Need to address the needs of Hmong providers.
2 comments	School age programs don't see how they fit in.
1 comment	This initiative will significantly increase the cost of running a child care program.

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